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SOUTH AFRICA.
"YOU PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME, MISSY."
SO I'M BETTING YOU EITHER HAVE THE LUCK OF A CHEAT...
...OR MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS.
WHICH IS IT?
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, JACQUES. UNLESS YOU'D CARE TO RAISE?
HOW ABOUT THE JEWEL?
SHE'S BLUFFING.
THROW IT IN THE POT, JACQUES. SHE CAN'T WIN AGAIN.
THIS IS WORTH A LOT OF MONEY TO SOME PEOPLE. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER?
HOW ABOUT YOUR FREEDOM?
"HOLDING ONTO THAT OLD ROCK'S BOUGHT YOU NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, JACQUES.
"YOU LOSE IT, YOU ALSO LOSE THE HEAT ON YOUR TAIL. YOU WIN. I SMUGGLE THE THREE OF YOU -- AND YOUR STOLEN JEWEL -- PAST THE AUTHORITIES AND INTO THAILAND.
"EITHER WAY, YOU WIN."

READ 'EM AND WEEP, MISSY.
YOU'LL HAVE TO USE THAT PRETTY FACE OF YOURS TO SMUGGLE US PAST THE COPS, SWEETHEART.
BECAUSE THEY SURE AS HELL AIN'T GONNA BUY THAT BULL YOU CALL A BLUFF.
Hmmm
WHO SAID I WAS BLUFFING?
BUT... NOW WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT ABOUT ME AND THE GANG?
FIND YOURSELF SOME OTHER PRETTY FACE FOR THOSE COPS, JACQUES...
BECAUSE IF YOU'RE RELYING ON LOOKS TO GET BY, I'D SAY YOU'RE BUSTED.
BUMP
SPLOSH
FZZZP
BZZZT
UZZZT
OOPS. THAT'LL PUT A DAMPER ON THINGS.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN DEALT A CHEAT, GANG. GET HER!

SO YOU WANNA PLAY NASTY NOW, JACQUES?
FINE.
I GOT YOU COVERED!
FWOOP
THWAP
KRAK
WHY DON'T WE SETTLE THIS OVER A DRINK, MISSY?!
KRISH
THE NAME ISN'T "MISSY."
AND, OFFERING DRINKS OR NOT, THAT'S NOT THE WAY SHE LIKES TO BE HIT ON!
POW!
IT'S ABBEY CHASE!

NOW LET'S...
...NOT BE...
...SORE LOSERS!
SMART THING TO DO WOULD BE TAKE THE HIT, OR SHOULD I SAY HITS, AND WALK AWAY.
THAT AIN'T THE WAY WE PLAY, CHASE. WE GO ALL OR NOTHING.
GOOD...
...BECAUSE I CAN ALWAYS THROW DOWN MY FIVE OF CLUBS.
THAT SUPPOSED TO SCARE ME?
TAKES A HELLUVA LOT MORE THAN THAT, CHASE! A HELLUVA--
CRASH!
AIIYEE!

JOHNNY!
A CAR LIKE THIS AND YOU STILL SHOW UP LATE?
FASHIONABLY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, LOVIN' YOUR OUTFIT, ABBEY!
SCREECH

GOT US THE STONE, DIDN'T IT?
OH, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT.

"IT'S THE CAR.
"HASN'T GONE IN FOR BULLETPROOFING YET!"

KRA-KOOM

CLIK

WHIRR

FOOMP

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
SWIISH

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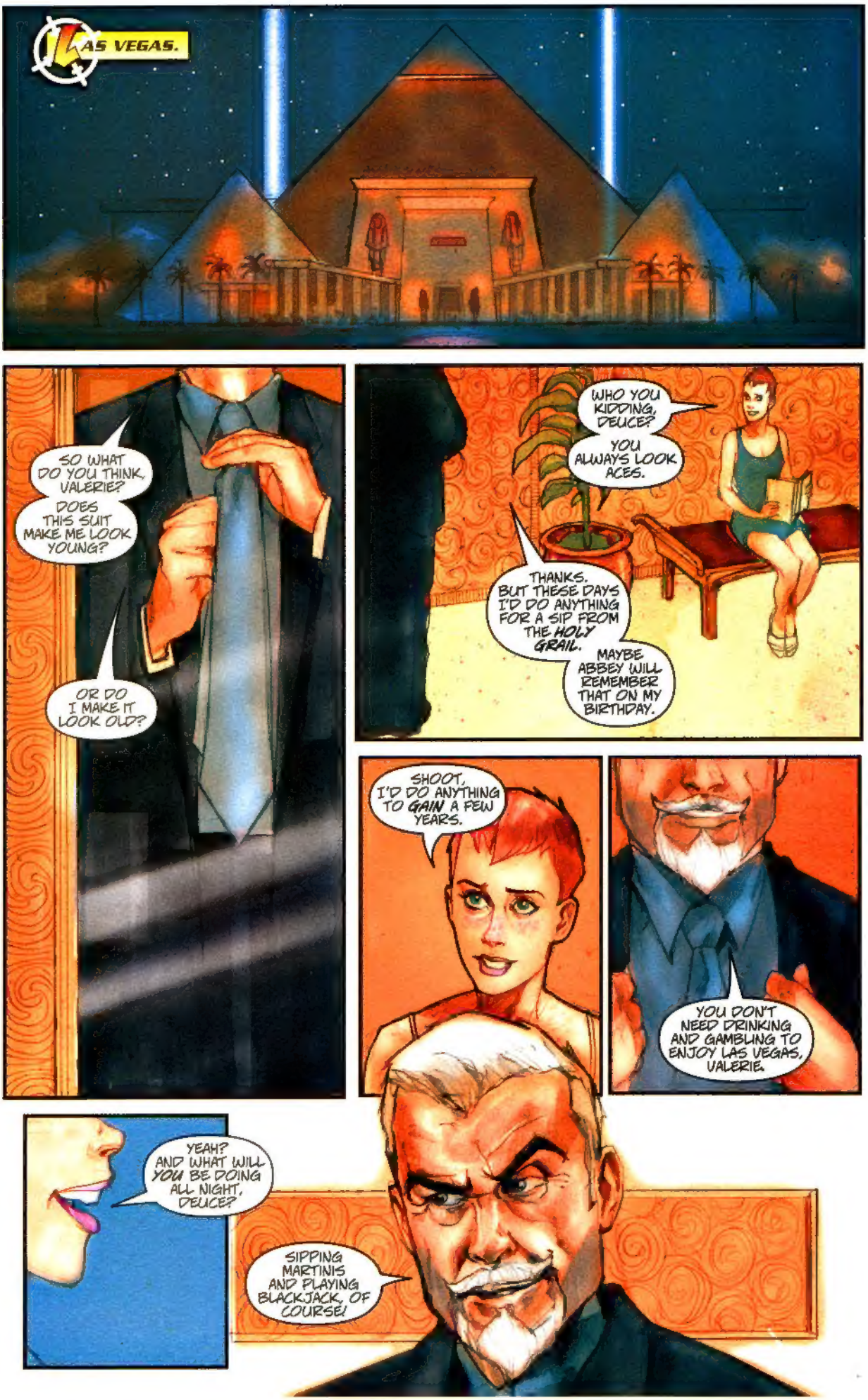
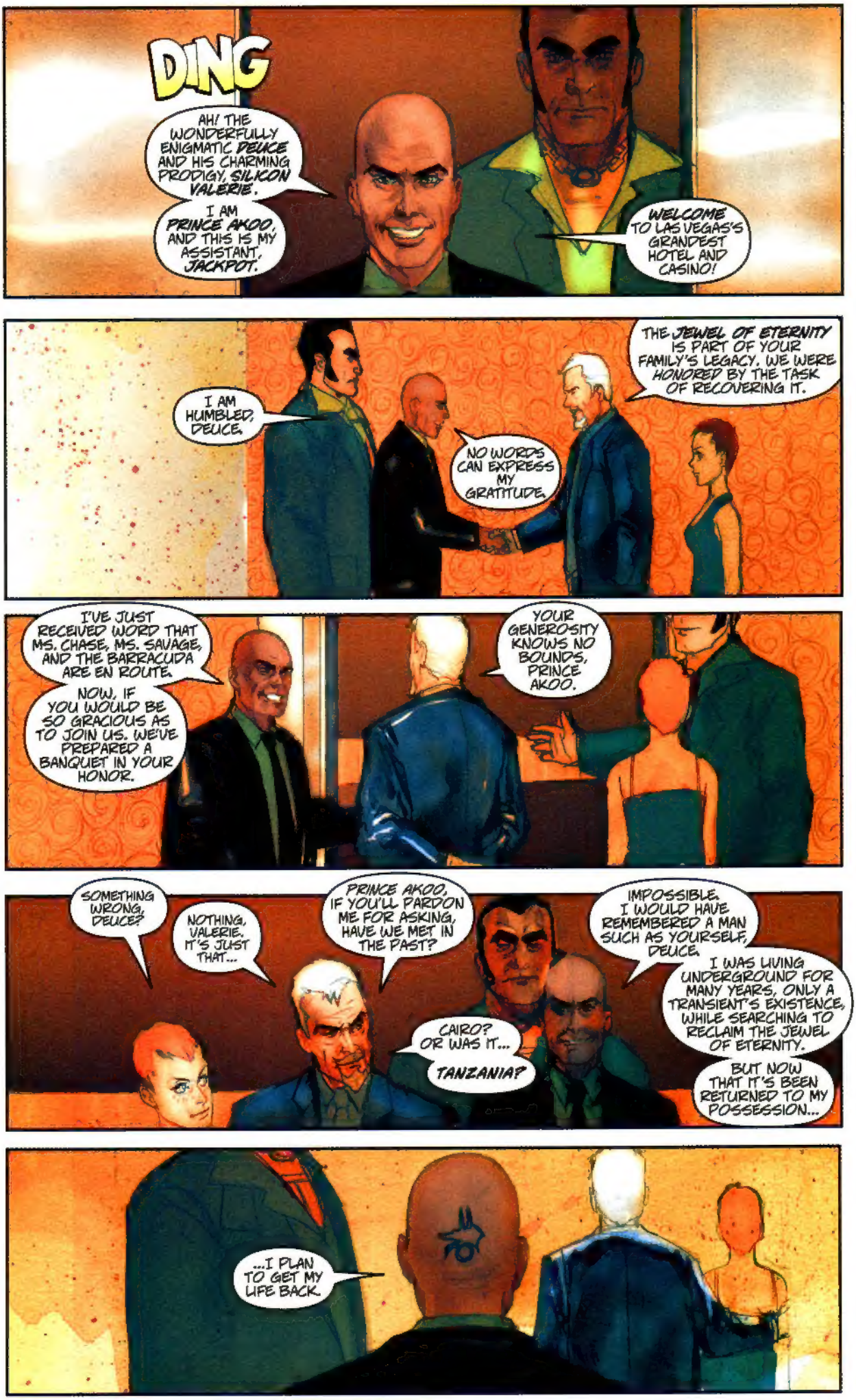
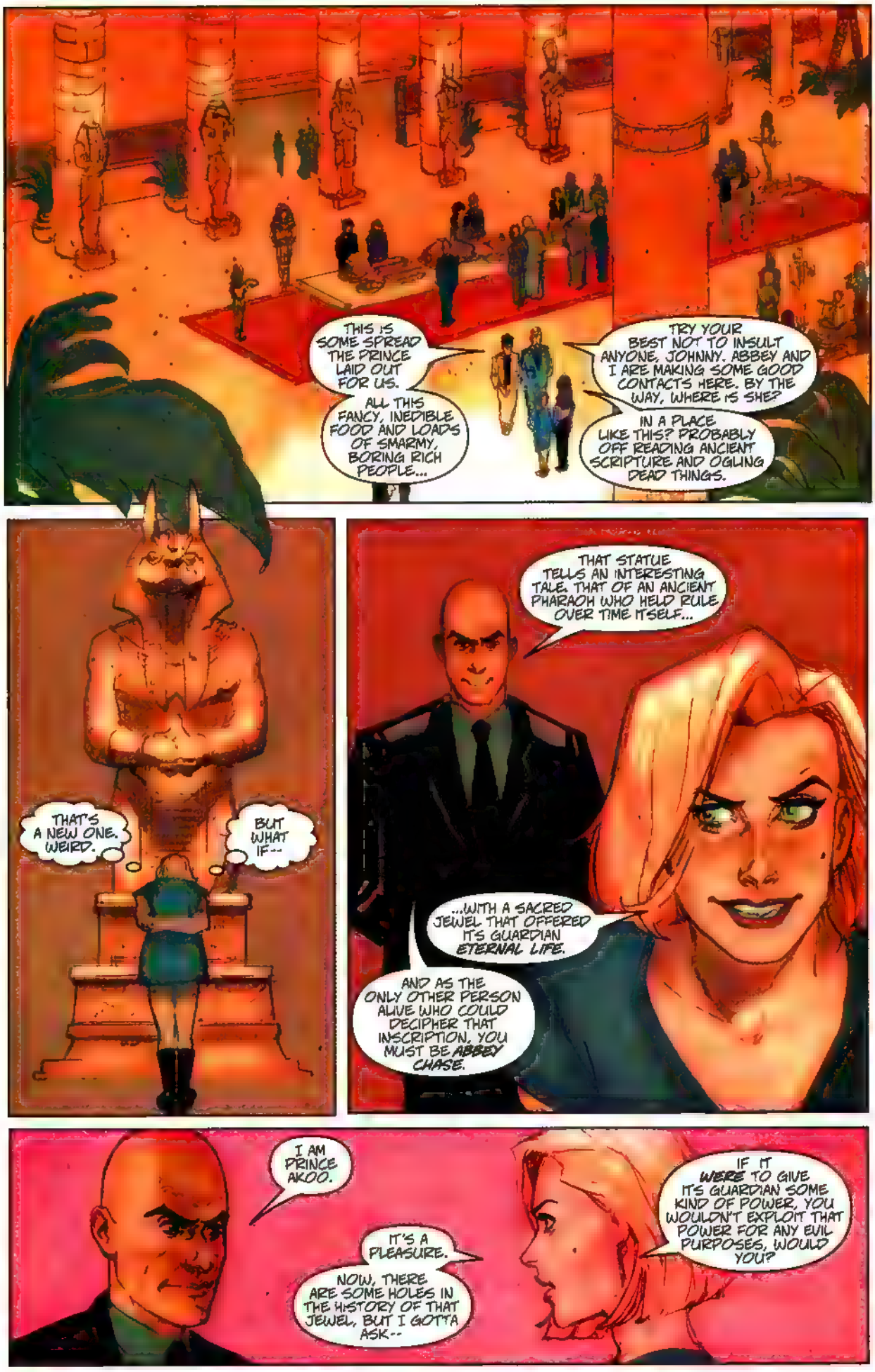
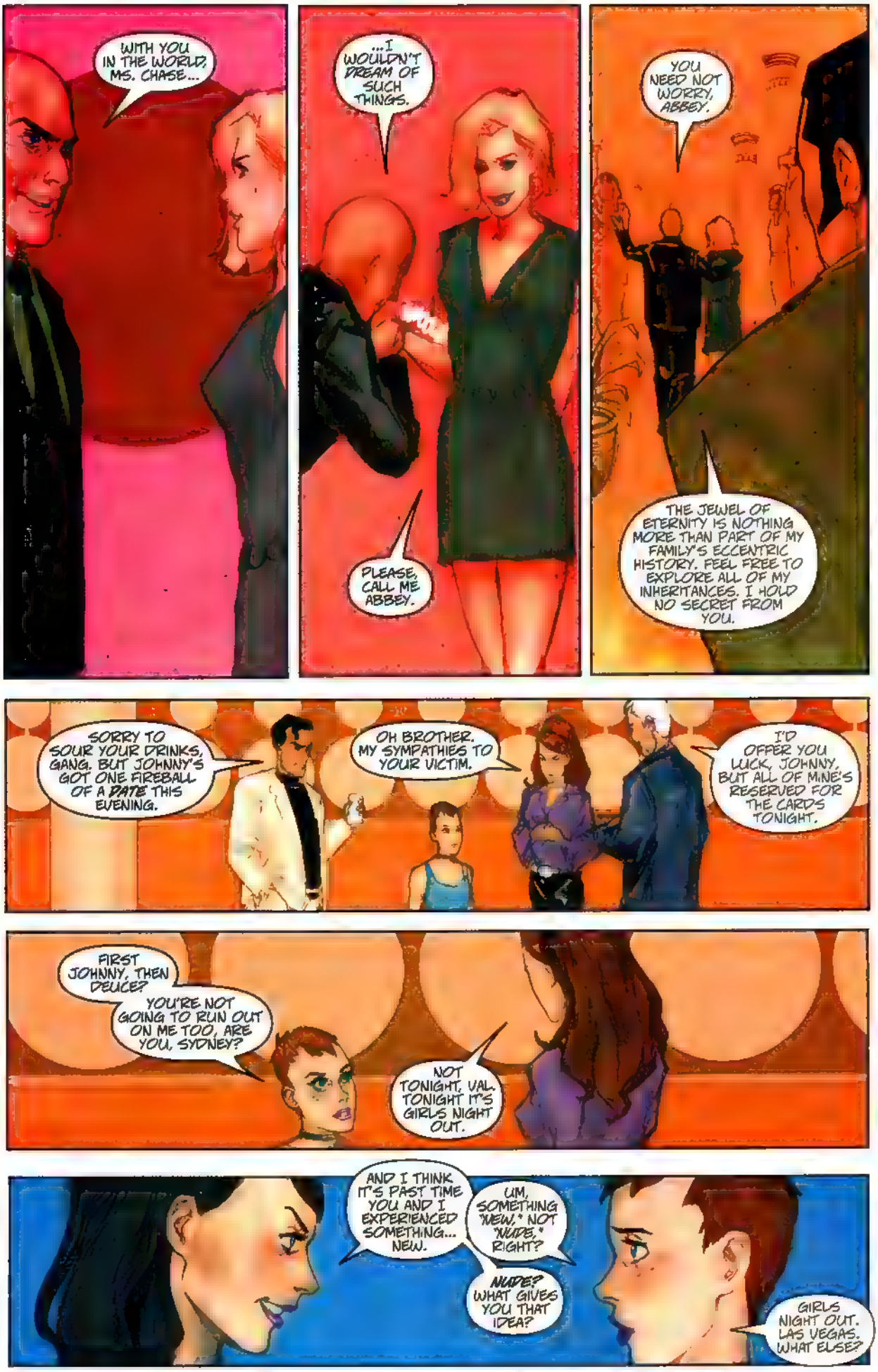

LAS VEGAS.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, VALERIE? DOES THIS SUIT MAKE ME LOOK YOUNG?
OR DO I MAKE IT LOOK OLD?
WHO YOU KIDDING, DEUCE?
YOU ALWAYS LOOK ACES.
THANKS. BUT THESE DAYS I'D DO ANYTHING FOR A SIP FROM THE HOLY GRAIL.
MAYBE ABBEY WILL REMEMBER THAT ON MY BIRTHDAY.
SHOOT, I'D DO ANYTHING TO GAIN A FEW YEARS.
YOU DON'T NEED DRINKING AND GAMBLING TO ENJOY LAS VEGAS, VALERIE.
YEAH? AND WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING ALL NIGHT, DEUCE?
SIPPING MARTINIS AND PLAYING BLACKJACK, OF COURSE!


DING
AH! THE WONDERFULLY ENIGMATIC DEUCE AND HIS CHARMING PRODIGY, SILICON VALERIE.
I AM PRINCE AKOO, AND THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, JACKPOT.
WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS'S GRANDEST HOTEL AND CASINO!
I AM HUMBLED, DEUCE.
NO WORDS CAN EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE.
THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY IS PART OF YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY. WE WERE HONORED BY THE TASK OF RECOVERING IT.
I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT MS. CHASE, MS. SAVAGE, AND THE BARRACUDA ARE EN ROUTE.
NOW, IF YOU WOULD BE SO GRACIOUS AS TO JOIN US. WE'VE PREPARED A BANQUET IN YOUR HONOR.
YOUR GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS, PRINCE AKOO.
SOMETHING WRONG, DEUCE?
NOTHING, VALERIE. IT'S JUST THAT...
PRINCE AKOO, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME FOR ASKING, HAVE WE MET IN THE PAST?
CAIRO? OR WAS IT... TANZANIA?
IMPOSSIBLE. I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED A MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF, DEUCE.
I WAS LIVING UNDERGROUND FOR MANY YEARS, ONLY A TRANSIENT'S EXISTENCE, WHILE SEARCHING TO RECLAIM THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY.
BUT NOW THAT IT'S BEEN RETURNED TO MY POSSESSION...
...I PLAN TO GET MY LIFE BACK.

WOW. DEUCE WASN'T EXAGGERATING.
THIS PRINCE AKOO RUNS AN IMPRESSIVE SHOW.
IT'S ALL HIS, SYDNEY. AND WE'RE HERE FOR THE ENTIRE WEEKEND.
AND THE BEST PART ABOUT IT?
IT'S ALL FREE, BABY.
I WONDER IF THEY HAVE ANY CUTE BOUTIQUES?
OR A TOPLESS LOUNGE?
OR AN EGYPTIAN ART GALLERY?
YOU MUST BE PRINCE AKOO'S HONORED GUESTS.
WELCOME.
I AM XYRA, YOUR PERSONAL CONCIERGE AND SERVANT.
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR COMPLIMENTARY SUITES.
OUR WORLD CLASS BOUTIQUES AND JEWELERS ARE ALSO PRIVATELY OPEN TO YOUR DESIRES.
THANK YOU, ABBEY. THANK YOU, ABBEY. THANK YOU --
I SO KNEW YOU'D BE INTO THIS.
BUT I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR RECOVERING THE JEWEL.
MY GETAWAY WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR VERY OWN DANGER BOY. GO ANYWHERE, DO ANYTHING, YOU CAN ALWAYS TRUST JOHNNY'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU.
AIN'T THAT RIGHT, JOHNNY?
JOHNNY?
WHERE'D HE GO?

THE NAME'S BARRACUDA. JOHNNY BARRACUDA. AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU, NOTICING ME, ACROSS THE CASINO.
SORRY, BUT I WAS LOOKING FOR THE CHANGE PERSON. I'M ALMOST OUT OF COINS.
HOW'S THIS FOR CHANGE--
-- A HANDSOME, MYSTERIOUS MAN OF THE WORLD MEETS YOU AT 8 O'CLOCK FOR DINNER, DRINKS, DANCING...
...AND A LITTLE UNDERCOVER WORK IF WE'RE LUCKY.
TEMPTING, BUT I PLAN TO SPEND THE REST OF MY BIRTHDAY RIGHT HERE WITH THIS OTHER PIG.
JACKPOT!!!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT CHARMING, BUT YOU SURE ARE A CHARM!
SO WE'RE ON?
I JUST HOPE YOU CAN KEEP IT UP TONIGHT.
I WON'T TAKE THAT AS AN INSULT. SEE YOU AT 8.
WOW. MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY.


THIS IS SOME SPREAD THE PRINCE LAID OUT FOR US.
ALL THIS FANCY, INEDIBLE FOOD AND LOADS OF SMARMY, BORING RICH PEOPLE...
TRY YOUR BEST NOT TO INSULT ANYONE, JOHNNY. ABBEY AND I ARE MAKING SOME GOOD CONTACTS HERE. BY THE WAY, WHERE IS SHE?
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? PROBABLY OFF READING ANCIENT SCRIPTURE AND OGLING DEAD THINGS.
THAT'S A NEW ONE. WEIRD.
BUT WHAT IF--
THAT STATUE TELLS AN INTERESTING TALE. THAT OF AN ANCIENT PHARAOH WHO HELD RULE OVER TIME ITSELF...
...WITH A SACRED JEWEL THAT OFFERED IT'S GUARDIAN ETERNAL LIFE.
AND AS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON ALIVE WHO COULD DECIPHER THAT INSCRIPTION, YOU MUST BE ABBEY CHASE.
I AM PRINCE AKOO.
IT'S A PLEASURE.
NOW, THERE ARE SOME HOLES IN THE HISTORY OF THAT JEWEL, BUT I GOTTA ASK--
IF IT WERE TO GIVE IT'S GUARDIAN SOME KIND OF POWER, YOU WOULDN'T EXPLOIT THAT POWER FOR ANY EVIL PURPOSES, WOULD YOU?


WITH YOU IN THE WORLD, MS. CHASE...
...I WOULDN'T DREAM OF SUCH THINGS.
PLEASE, CALL ME ABBEY.
YOU NEED NOT WORRY, ABBEY.
THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY IS NOTHING MORE THAN PART OF MY FAMILY'S ECCENTRIC HISTORY. FEEL FREE TO EXPLORE ALL OF MY INHERITANCES. I HOLD NO SECRET FROM YOU.
SORRY TO SOUR YOUR DRINKS, GANG. BUT JOHNNY'S GOT ONE FIREBALL OF A DATE THIS EVENING.
OH BROTHER. MY SYMPATHIES TO YOUR VICTIM.
I'D OFFER YOU LUCK, JOHNNY, BUT ALL OF MINE'S RESERVED FOR THE CARDS TONIGHT.
FIRST JOHNNY, THEN DEUCE?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RUN OUT ON ME TOO, ARE YOU, SYDNEY?
NOT TONIGHT, VAL. TONIGHT IT'S GIRLS NIGHT OUT.
AND I THINK IT'S PAST TIME YOU AND I EXPERIENCED SOMETHING... NEW.
UM, SOMETHING "NEW," NOT "NUDE," RIGHT?
NUDE? WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA?
GIRLS NIGHT OUT. LAS VEGAS. WHAT ELSE?

LATER...
PRINCE AKOO SURE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO SHOW ME AROUND.
BUT THE MORE HE TRIED TO CONVINCE ME THAT THE JEWEL WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN HEIRLOOM...
...THE MORE I BELIEVE HE WAS HIDING SOMETHING.
NAH. IT'S PROBABLY JUST ME NEVER PUTTING MY GUARD DOWN.
WHICH IS A GOOD THING FOR ME!
BUT BAD FOR YOU!
UGH!

CLANG
MIND LOSING THE MASK, LADY? IT'S HELL ON MY MANICURE!
A THIEVING COWARD ISN'T OWED THE IDENTITY OF HER ASSASSIN!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
The Jewel of Eternity!
STOLEN BY YOU, THEN GIFTED TO A SNAKE!
A SNAKE? UNF! YOU MEAN AKOO?
NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE THIEF TO PAY...
...WITH HER LIFE!
THAP

WITH THAT INJURED LEG OF YOURS, YOU KNOW I CAN CATCH YOU.
AND MAKE IT WORSE.
SO TALK FAST, LADY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THIS CONCERNS THE FATE OF THE WORLD, OF COURSE.
AND AS FOR WHO I AM?
PERHAPS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, MS. CHASE.
FZZK
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T WAIT!
SNAP

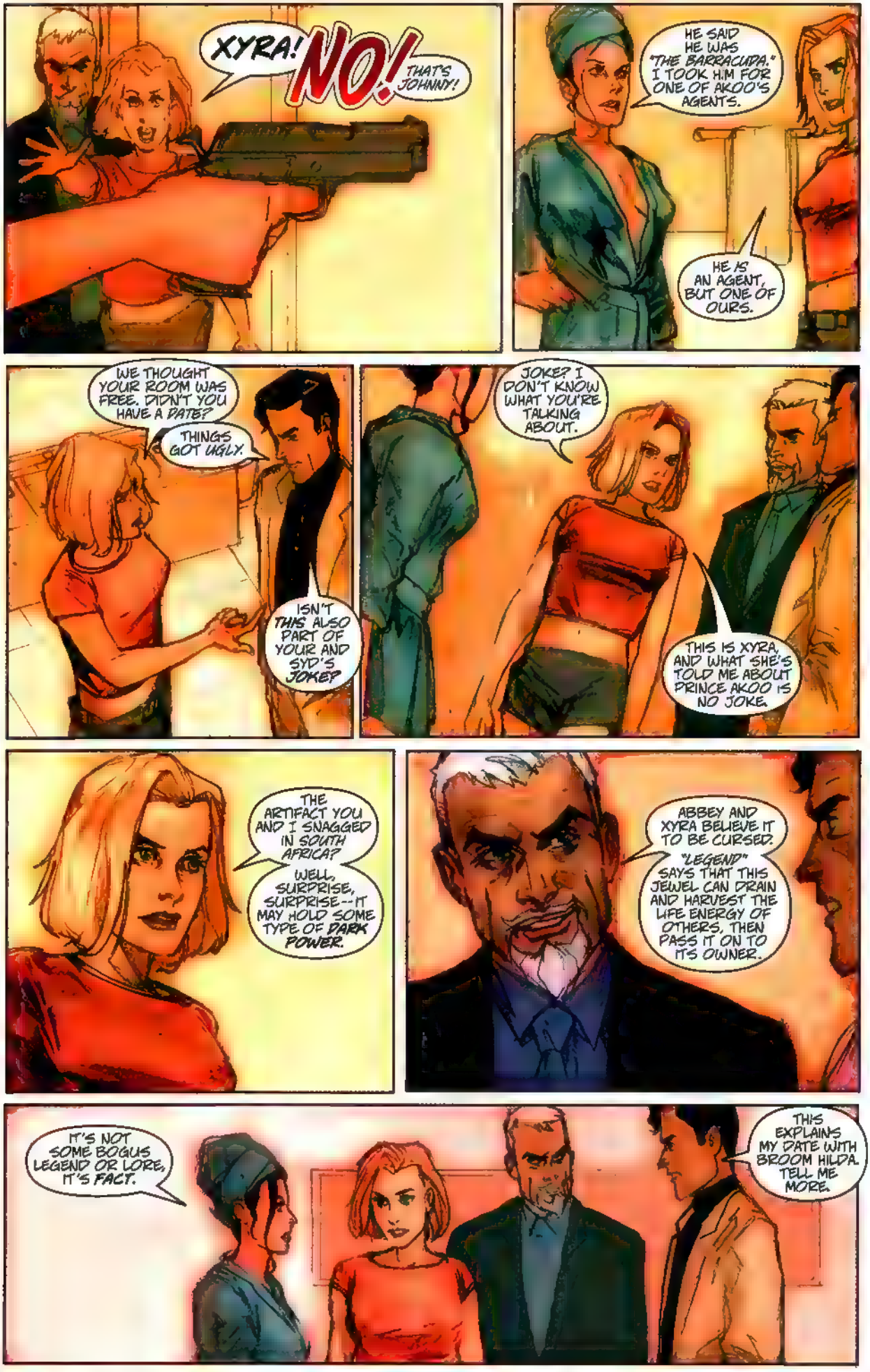
HERE WE GO, VAL. YOU READY?
I GUESS. I'M JUST AFRAID IT'S GONNA FEEL... I DUNNO, WEIRD.
AHH! TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SPAS. BEST PART OF LAS VEGAS IF YOU ASK ME!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, VAL?
MUD BATHS. HMM. COOLER AND MORE GELATIN-LIKE THAN EXPECTED. I LOVE IT, SYD!
I WONDER IF ABBEY'S HAVING A GOOD TIME?
WAAAAAAH!
SPLISH SPLASH

DEAR GOD!
THIS HOT STREAK MAY BURN DOWN THE HOUSE!
"THIS WOULD'VE BEEN A SMASHING TIME FOR ABBEY TO GET HER FEET WET."
I CAN GET DOWN WITH MY BAD SELF, BUT WITH A PARTNER, I COULDA TORE THIS PLACE IN TWO!
"I'M SURE ABBEY WOULD'VE BEEN DOWN TO BUST A MOVE!"
KRAK

NOW, BEFORE MY FISTS GIVE YOU A 2-MINUTE MAKE-OVER...
...LET'S LOSE THE MASK, SHALL WE?
WAIT. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
NOW I DO!
YOU'RE XYRA! OUR "PERSONAL CONCIERGE," HUH?
IF THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT ALL YOUR GUESTS, I'M READY TO LODGE A MAJOR COMPLAINT!
I'M SORRY, ABBEY. BUT YOU GAVE ME NO CHOICE.
THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY MUST NOT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF PRINCE AKOO.
OH YEAH? AND WHAT IF IT ALREADY HAS?
THEN WE MUST RETRIEVE THE JEWEL. TOGETHER.
BEFORE ITS CURSE OF THE AGES BECOMES TOO POWERFUL TO STOP!

THE CRO-BAR.
7:59 PM
KEEP IN MIND THAT I'VE BEEN PLACES, PAL. THE KIND OF FAR-OFF PLACES YOU ONLY SEE IN MOVIES.
SO YOU'VE TOLD ME. OVER AND OVER.
HEY, LET'S JUST SAY I'VE SEEN MORE WOMEN THAN YOU'VE SEEN COCKTAIL WEENIES.
AND THIS ONE, BOY LET ME TELL YOU, HER BEAUTY IS JUST...
TIMELESS!
WHATEVER, BUD. JUST PAY FOR YOUR --
MAY I?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, CUE BALL?
IT'S HER BIRTHDAY, AND THE DRINKS ARE ON HER!
ONLY BECAUSE I EXPECT TO SPEND THE REST OF THE NIGHT ON YOU, HANDSOME.
OOG! NOT FUNNY.
IF SYD AND AB SET THIS JOKE UP, THEY MUST ALSO HAVE SOME SORT OF CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR YOU.
SO LET ME JUST GO GET THAT FOR YOU. IN ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS.

JEALOUSY YET AGAIN REARS IT'S UGLY MUG.
SYDNEY'S NOT OVER ME. NEVER WILL BE. CAN I BLAME HER?
THE REAL QUESTION IS-- WHY WAS MY ROOM'S DOOR UNLOCKED?
AND WHAT KIND OF BURGLAR STEALS NOTHING BUT HOT WATER?
FORGIVE ME. I TOOK THE ROOM AS VACANT.
JACKPOT, BABY!
HECK-- TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT, BABE.
THE BARRACUDA, FOR STARTERS...
SWIPE
THANKS, BUT YOUR GUN WILL BE ENOUGH!
NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!


XYRA! NO! THAT'S JOHNNY!
HE SAID HE WAS "THE BARRACUDA." I TOOK H.M FOR ONE OF AKOO'S AGENTS.
HE IS AN AGENT, BUT ONE OF OURS.
WE THOUGHT YOUR ROOM WAS FREE. DIDN'T YOU HAVE A DATE?
THINGS GOT UGLY.
ISN'T THIS ALSO PART OF YOUR AND SYD'S JOKE?
JOKE? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THIS IS XYRA, AND WHAT SHE'S TOLD ME ABOUT PRINCE AKOO IS NO JOKE.
THE ARTIFACT YOU AND I SNAGGED IN SOUTH AFRICA?
WELL, SURPRISE, SURPRISE--IT MAY HOLD SOME TYPE OF DARK POWER.
ABBEY AND XYRA BELIEVE IT TO BE CURSED.
"LEGEND" SAYS THAT THIS JEWEL CAN DRAIN AND HARVEST THE LIFE ENERGY OF OTHERS, THEN PASS IT ON TO ITS OWNER.
IT'S NOT SOME BOGUS LEGEND OR LORE, IT'S FACT.
THIS EXPLAINS MY DATE WITH BROOM HILDA. TELL ME MORE.

"IT BEGAN LONG AGO."
"NEAR THE END OF A ONCE-MIGHTY EGYPTIAN PHARAOH'S RULE.
"OR WHAT WAS *THOUGHT* TO BE THE END.
"AS THE PHARAOH GREW OLD AND WEAK, SO DID HIS HAND OVER THE PEOPLE IN HIS KINGDOM.
"NO LONGER SATISFIED WITH THE RICHES THE PHARAOH GRANTED THEM, THE UNGRATEFUL INVADED THE PALACE AND SOUGHT THE THRONE FOR THEMSELVES.
"THE PHARAOH'S ONLY DAUGHTER, A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO WAS BELIEVED TO POSSESS MAGICAL GIFTS, QUICKLY LED HER FATHER INTO THE PALACE'S SECRET DEPTHS.
"THERE, SHE BESTOWED HER FATHER WITH A MYSTERIOUS JEWEL. ONE SHE CLAIMED COULD HELP HIM RETURN TO HIS FORMER GLORY.

"AS THE PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER HOPED, THE INSURGENTS BECAME SPELLBOUND. ENTRANCED BY THE VERY JEWELS THEY STOLE FROM THE PALACE.
"WHAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THESE JEWELS WERE MAGICAL TRANSMITTERS.
"EVEN AS THEIR LIFE ENERGY WAS CONVEYED TO THE PHARAOH, THE THIEVES WERE BLIND TO THE AGING EFFECTS THE JEWELS HAD ON THEM.
"THE PHARAOH WAS SOON ONCE AGAIN RULER, AND NOW A GOD IN THE EYES OF THOSE LEFT IN HIS KINGDOM."

HURRY! SOMEONE HAS WOKEN THE JEWEL!
WE MUST RECOVER IT BY ANY MEANS!

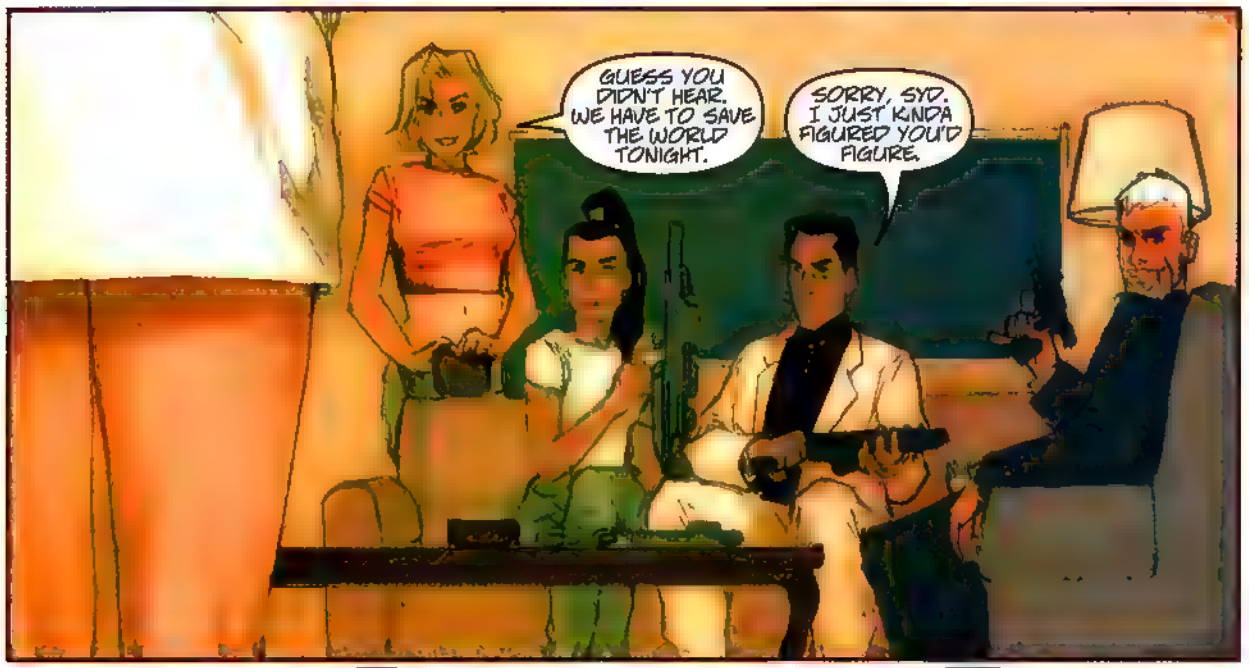
AIIEEE!
KA-CHUNK

ENEMIES OF PRINCE AKOO.
YOUR FATE WILL BE CHOSEN BY THE SLOTS.
TIK-TIK TIKTIK TIK

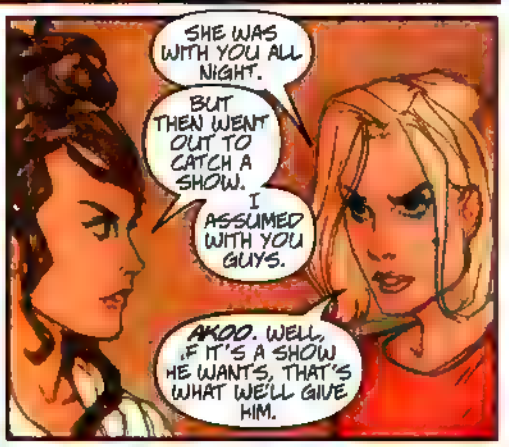
"ODDS ARE, YOU'LL TAKE A LOSS.
DING
DING
DING
TOUGH LUCK, FELLAS.

BUT THANKS FOR PLAYING!

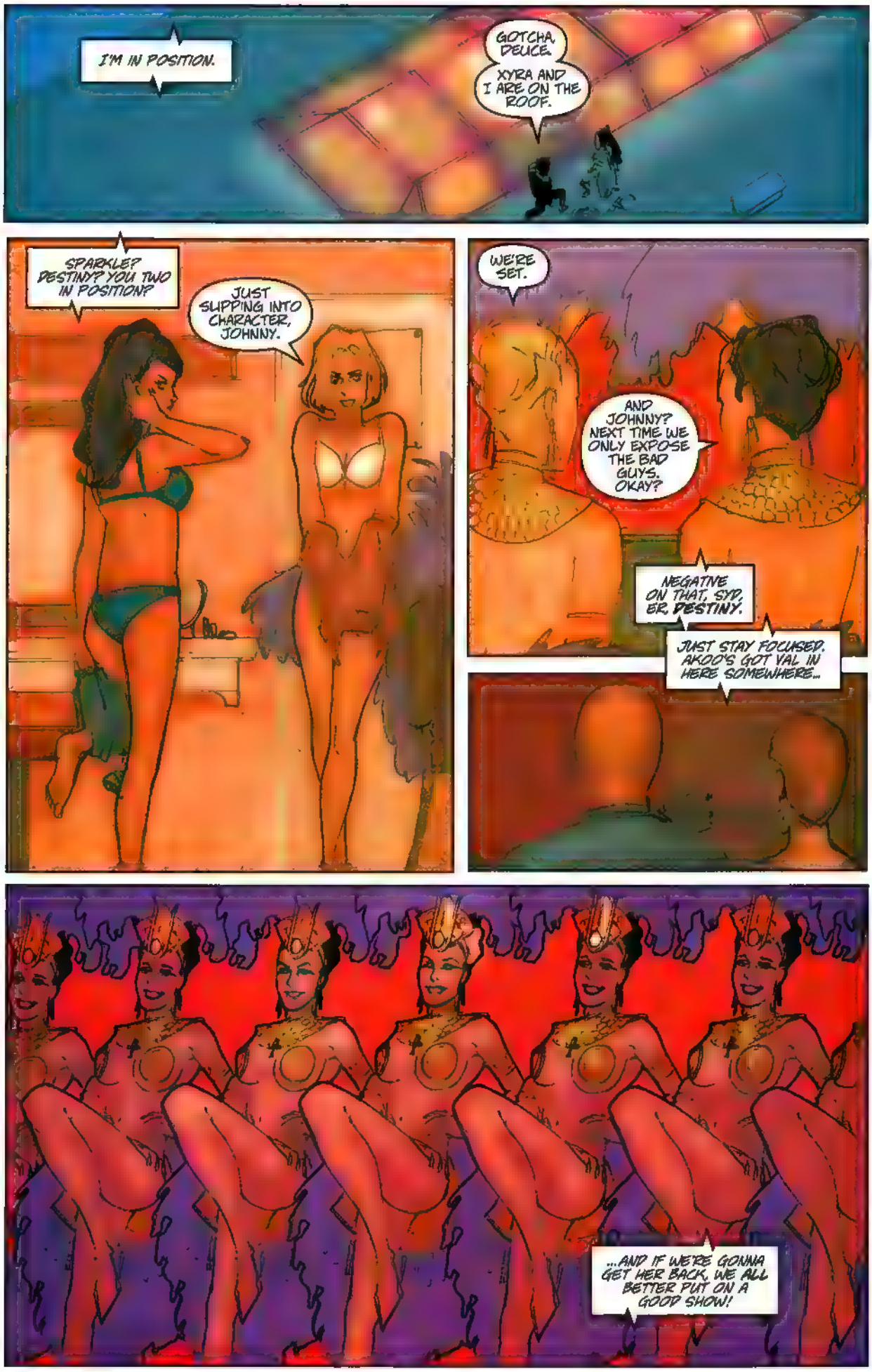
JOHNNY?
I GOT YOUR MESSAGE TO SWING BY.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND, I'M GOING TO SPEND A QUIET EVENING ALONE.


GUESS YOU DIDN'T HEAR. WE HAVE TO SAVE THE WORLD TONIGHT.
SORRY, SYD. I JUST KINDA FIGURED YOU'D FIGURE.

GEAR UP. WE'LL BRING YOU UP TO SPEED WHEN VALERIE ARRIVES.
SHE ISN'T HERE?


SHE WAS WITH YOU ALL NIGHT.
BUT THEN WENT OUT TO CATCH A SHOW.
I ASSUMED WITH YOU GUYS.
AKOO. WELL, IF IT'S A SHOW HE WANTS, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL GIVE HIM.

I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT ABBEY AND THE OTHERS HAVE SENT REGRETS.
BUT I'M SO VERY PLEASED THAT YOU COULD JOIN ME FOR TONIGHT'S SPECIAL EVENTS.

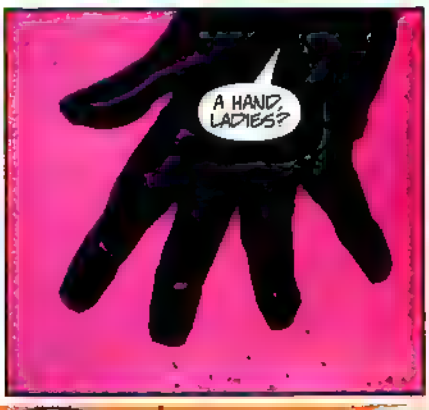

I'M IN POSITION.
GOTCHA, DEUCE. XYRA AND I ARE ON THE ROOF.
SPARKLE? DESTINY? YOU TWO IN POSITION?
JUST SLIPPING INTO CHARACTER, JOHNNY.
WE'RE SET.
AND JOHNNY? NEXT TIME WE ONLY EXPOSE THE BAD GUYS, OKAY?
NEGATIVE ON THAT, SYD, ER, DESTINY.
JUST STAY FOCUSED. AKOO'S GOT YAL IN HERE SOMEWHERE...
...AND IF WE'RE GONNA GET HER BACK, WE ALL BETTER PUT ON A GOOD SHOW!

I DON'T SEE HER, ABBEY.
JUST KEEP DANCING, SYD AND SMILE.
WE CAN'T LET AKOO KNOW WE'RE ON TO HIM.
SPARKLE, DESTINY. I FOUND HIS BALD BADNESS!
LEFT SIDE BALCONY. SECOND TIER.
BUT NO SIGN OF OUR M.I.A. TEENYBOPPER.
ALRIGHT, WE GOT THIS WHOLE TIME THING WORKING AGAINST US, DEUCE.
SO YOU MIGHT WANNA MOVE IN. OFFER THE PRINCE A ROYAL BEAT DOWN OR SOMETHING.
PRINCE AKOO.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO MISS THE REST OF THE SHOW.
THE JEWEL.
AND VALERIE.
NOW.
I'M RIGHT HERE, DEUCE.

DEUCE?! WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
VALERIE?! IS THAT YOU?
IT MUST BE THE CURSE! YOU'RE AGING!
CRACK
DEUCE! NO!
THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY SPRINGING INTO ACTION, ABBEY?
WE CAN'T CAUSE A PANIC, SYDNEY.
THE CROWD SHOULD THINK THIS IS ALL PART OF THE SHOW.
DING DING DING
HE WON HIS LIFE, PRINCE AKOO. I MUST HONOR THE SLOTS.
I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR HIM ANYWAY, JACKPOT.

CRASH
WE'RE ACTION HEROES, PEOPLE!
REMAIN CALM!

AIIYEEE! RUN! HELP!
HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD WORK?


A HAND, LADIES?

SMOOTH MOVE, JOHNNY.
WE'LL NEVER TRACK DEUCE AND JAL IN THIS STAMPEDE!

XYRA?
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE AKOO CAN TAKE REFUGE.

DEEP BELOW THE CASINO...
YOU ALREADY HAVE THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY, AKOO. WHY DO YOU NEED US?
YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS ARE NEEDED FOR MY PLAN, DEUCE.
AND FOR THAT, I ASK YOU TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND. THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.
I SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DOING. STEALING THE MOST VALUABLE ASSET OF ALL.
TIME.
AND I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT IF VALERIE WASN'T AGING BEFORE MY OWN EYES.
AS SHE SHOULD BE. SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE, DEUCE.
"BUT I CAN PROMISE YOU, HER LIFE WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN VAIN."

IT WAS AROUND HERE THAT PRINCE AKOO PULLED ME AWAY FROM AN UNUSUAL STATUE.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WAS UP TO SOMETHING DIRTY.
THE STATUE YOU SEEK IS IMOHTA. IT SPEAKS OF ETERNAL LIFE.
THAT'S THE ONE, XYRA.
FUNNY THING IS, AKOO SAID HE AND I WERE THE ONLY ONES ALIVE WHO COULD READ IT.
GUESS HE STILL HASN'T FOUND OUT ABOUT YOU.
RUMBLE
YOU'VE FOUND IT, ABBEY. THE PATH TO AKOO'S CEREMONIAL CHAMBER.
YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS MYSTERY THAN ME, XYRA.
WHAT I DON'T GET IS WHY THE PHARAOH WENT ALL EVIL. I MEAN, HE WAS THE VICTIM AT FIRST, RIGHT?

"AT FIRST, YES. BUT, LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE FROM HIM, THE PHARAOH BECAME INFECTED WITH GREED.
"THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY RESTORED HIS HEALTH AND POWER, BUT HE WANTED MORE.
"FOR EVERY GRAY HAIR TO SURFACE IN HIS BEARD, HE TOOK A LIFE. FOR EVERY WRINKLE IN HIS SKIN, HE TOOK THREE.
"TO RETAIN HIS YOUTH, HE SOON TOOK THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, ENSURING HIMSELF THE THRONE FOR DECADES.
"DECADES THAT TURNED INTO CENTURIES.
"HIS PRECIOUS JEWELS ALWAYS DELIVERING THEIR LETHAL CURSE TO ANY UNLUCKY SOUL WHO DISCOVERED THEM.
THEN WHAT? DO YOU KNOW HOW HE FINALLY LOST THE JEWEL?
NO. ALL I KNOW IS THAT YOU BROUGHT IT BACK.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, SYD.
SOMEWHERE IN THIS SEA OF PRUNES AND BEEF JERKY IS A LEAD TO FINDING THAT MAGIC STONE.
TAKE IT EASY, JOHNNY.
THESE POOR PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM.
JOHNNY, LOOK.
THOSE WARRIORS MOVING THE SARCOPHAGUSES. THEY'RE CARRYING REAL SWORDS INSTEAD OF THE USUAL PROPS.
FOLLOW ME.
AKOO, YOUR PEOPLE, YOUR KINGDOM, ALL OF IT IS GONE.
THIS IS MADNESS!
MADNESS?
ONCE THE CEREMONY HAS BEGUN, DEUCE, THEN YOU WILL WITNESS MADNESS.
DIVINE MADNESS!

YOU GOT A REAL NICE PLACE HERE IN VEGAS, PRINCE AKOO.
BUT I THINK WE'RE ALL SET TO CHECK OUT!
WHOA!
DOWN, BOY!
KA-POW
UGH!
THIS ONE CAN'T TAKE A HINT, ABBEY.
THEY MUST BE ARMORED!
BLAM BLAM
"AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT...
"...THERE'S MORE OF THEM!"

ARMORED DOG WARRIORS OR NOT, XYRA, WE NEED TO STAY IN THE GAME.
I STILL HAVE A FEW TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE!
NOW!
ZMMMMMM
THE TIME OF FOREVER HAS ARRIVED!
WITNESS THE POWER OF ETERNITY!
BETTER HAND OVER THE JEWEL, AKOO!
'CAUSE YOU CAN'T BEAT THIS PAIR OF ACES!
FLUMP
CLUNK
UUUGH
GROAN
ZZZAP
MOOOAAN
ZZZRRT
FRRRZAP
PAIR OF ACES, HUH, JOHNNY?
YEAH.
MAYBE I OUGHTTA HOLD ONTO THOSE ZINGERS UNTIL AFTER WE KICK BUTT.

OKAAAY...
WAS ANYONE EXPECTING THE ARMY OF FLESH-EATING FREAKAZOIDS?
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, SYD?
WE'RE IN VEGAS.
SO WE TRY TO DO LIKE EVERYONE ELSE--
WHUP TISH
BEAT THE ODDS!
THRAK
JOHNNY?! FOUND ANY WEAKNESSES?
BESIDES OUR GUNS?!
KA-POW KA-POW
BLAM BLAM BLAM
THE JEWEL! IT MUST BE THEIR SOURCE OF POWER.
WHERE IS IT?!

IN MY SIGHT, DEUCE!
CRACK
NO! NOT YET!
ETERNITY MUST NOT DAWN BEFORE THE AFTERLIFE!
"OR THE AFTERLIFE ITSELF WILL COME TO END!"
AKOO, YOU BASTARD.
WE HAVE MET IN THE PAST!

"TANZANIA...
"THREE YEARS AGO..."
PRAY TO YOUR GOD, THIEF.
BECAUSE FOR THE SAKE OF MINE, I CANNOT RISK YOUR RETRIBUTION!
GO TO HELL!
SLASH HIS THROAT AND HE WON'T TALK.
THAT'LL RUIN MY DAY AS WELL.
I'M LOOKING FOR A WOMAN.
YOU KNOW THE TYPE. ROGUE. THIEF. SMUGGLER.
HER NAME IS ABBEY CHASE.

CHASE. YEAH, I KNOW HER.
LAST I HEARD SHE WAS HEADED TO COSTA RICA. SHE'S GOOD, OLD MAN. BUT EXPENSIVE.
AND SHE WORKS ALONE.
I SHOULD KNOW.
TRIED TO GET IN ON HER ACTION ONCE, ALL SHE GAVE ME WAS THIS BEAUTY MARK.
COSTA RICA IS A BIG PLACE.
GET MY BAG BACK FROM THESE CROOKS AND I MIGHT REMEMBER SOME SPECIFICS.
THAT JOG YOUR MEMORY?
THINGS ARE COMING BACK.
LOOK FOR A GUY NAMED DONAVIN CONRAD.
YOU FIND HIM, YOU FIND CHASE.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU THAT BAG REALLY BELONGED TO, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET HONEST ANSWERS FROM A CROOK.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS. ETERNITY MUST NOT DAWN BEFORE THE AFTERLIFE!
I'M SORRY, BUT WHATEVER YOUR TASK, YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT MINE IS GREATER.
AND MY TASK, DEUCE. YOU REMEMBERED TO PRESERVE THE AFTERLIFE ITSELF!
BUT I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT. NOT WHEN I HAD AN ARMY TO STOP!
ALL OF MY EFFORTS HAVE LED TO THIS MOMENT, DEUCE. THE MOMENT I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO RID THE WORLD OF THE JEWEL, ITS CURSE, AND THE DEMON WHO STANDS BEHIND IT!
CLICK
YOU BELIEVE ME TO BE THAT DEMON, ABBEY...
...THE ANCIENT PHARAOH BEHIND THIS MADNESS.
YOU GONNA PROVE YOU'RE NOT?
THE JEWEL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, YET IT HAS NOT AFFECTED ME.
YOU HELD YOUR SECRET TOO LONG, AKOO.
THE JEWEL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, BUT IT STILL RETAINS THE STRENGTH TO GRANT LIFE.
BEAUTY.
AND POWER.

WHUP TISH
GOTTA DISAGREE WITH THE BEAUTY PART, XYRA!
AKOO! YOU FOUGHT TO DESTROY THE JEWEL. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US BEFORE?
XYRA'S IDENTITY REMAINED A MYSTERY. I HAD TO BEGIN THE CEREMONY IN ORDER TO LURE HER OUT OF HIDING.
SHE IS ONLY VULNERABLE ONCE SHE HAS TAPPED INTO THE JEWEL'S FULL POWER.
FULL POWER? WHEN IS THAT?
NOW!
THOOM
"THE OLD PHARAOH NEVER RECLAIMED HIS KINGDOM. HE WAS MURDERED BY HIS DAUGHTER! XYRA!
"IT WAS WITH HER BLACK MAGIC AND HIS BLOOD THAT SHE CREATED THE JEWEL OF ETERNITY.
"AND TOOK HIS KINGDOM FOR HERSELF!

TOUGH TO KILL WHAT'S ALREADY DEAD, DEUCE!
AND I MEAN WAY DEAD!
WELCOME TO VEGAS, FELLAS!
WHERE OUR SLOT MACHINES HAVE 100% PAYOUT!
FROOOSH!
SAVE YOUR STRENGTH, VAL!
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
TOO BAD YOU WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE WHAT YOU FOUGHT SO LONG TO PRESERVE, AKOO.
FOR WHEN I AM IMMORTAL, YOUR PRECIOUS AFTERLIFE WILL CEASE TO EXIST!
JOHNNY. RUN.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME.
SO... TIRED... WEAK.

THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF THESE CRUSTIES! COMING TOO FAST!
ANY CHANCE XYRA WILL HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART?
HISSSS! KILL THEM ALL!
VALERIE! VALERIE!
DON'T LET QUEEN BITCH TOUCH THE JEWEL!
I WON'T, JOHNNY.
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'LL LAST!
YOU DARE HOLD THAT WHICH IS ALL PRECIOUS?!
GIVE THE JEWEL TO ME, OLD WOMAN!
NOW!

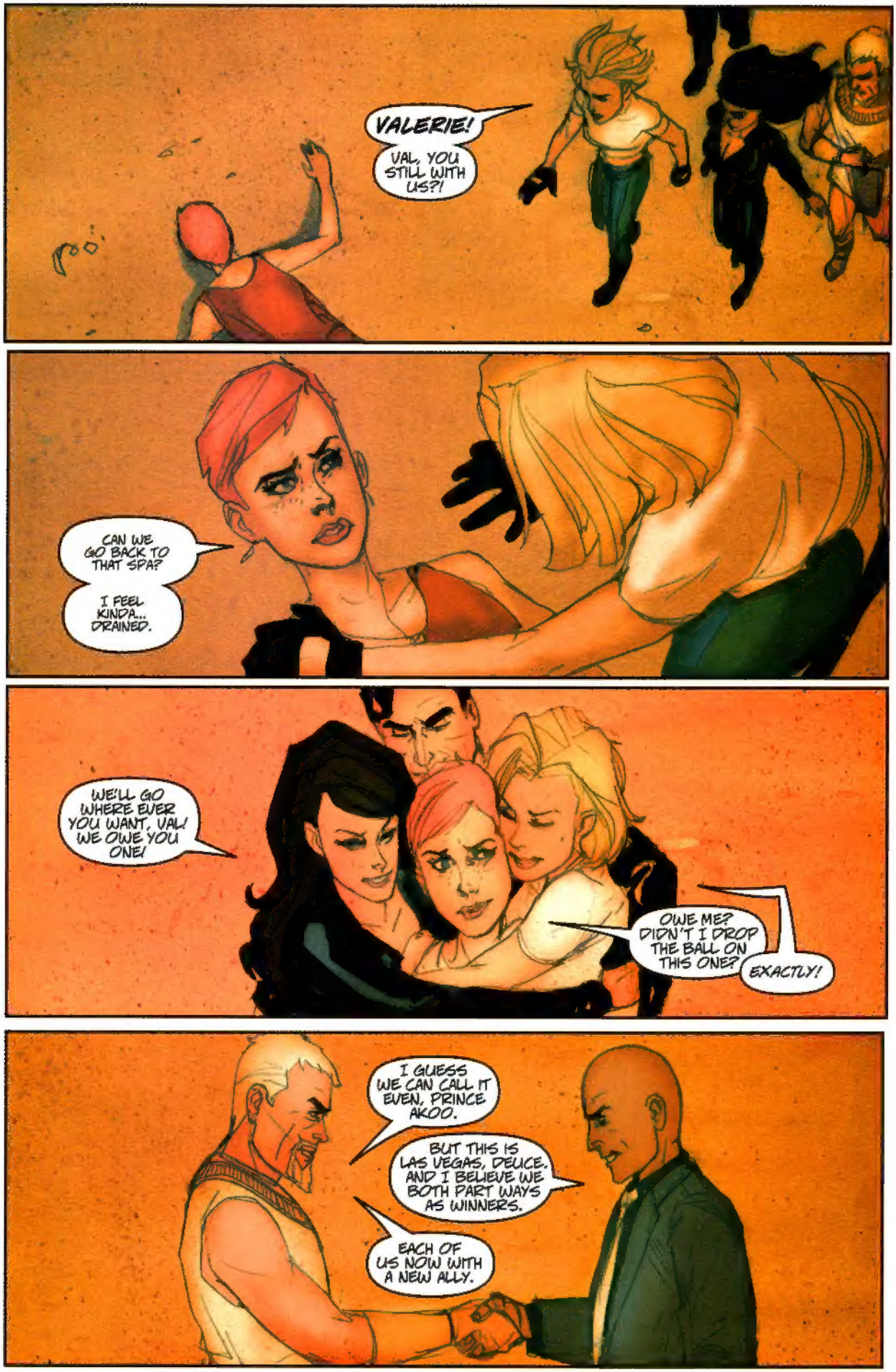
HA HA HA. LIKE BEFORE, XYRA, YOUR GREED WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL.
BUT THIS TIME FOR GOOD!
BECAUSE WHEN YOU DRAINED THE LIFE FROM THAT YOUNG GIRL'S HANDS...
"...YOU ALSO LEFT YOURS IN HERS."
THE JEWEL!
NO!
KRAKA BOOM

WHSSSP
FRSSSP
FRSSSSST

THSSSP
WHSSSSST
THSSSST

AAIEEE!
ZZAPP
ZZZRRT

THOOOM


VALERIE!
VAL, YOU STILL WITH US?!
CAN WE GO BACK TO THAT SPA?
I FEEL KINDA.. DRAINED.
WE'LL GO WHERE EVER YOU WANT, VAL! WE OWE YOU ONE!
OWE ME? DIDN'T I DROP THE BALL ON THIS ONE?
EXACTLY!
I GUESS WE CAN CALL IT EVEN, PRINCE AKOO.
BUT THIS IS LAS VEGAS, DEUCE. AND I BELIEVE WE BOTH PART WAYS AS WINNERS.
EACH OF US NOW WITH A NEW ALLY.

LATER...
HOW ABOUT ONE MORE TRY, GUYS? WE CAN WIN THAT BIG JACKPOT.
NOT GONNA HAPPEN, JOHNNY.
BELIEVE ME, I'VE DONE THE MATH.
DING DING DING
SOMEBODY WON! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WOW!
DING DING DING
WHOOP WHOOP
DING DING DING DING DING
YOU WERE SAYING?
NOT GONNA HAPPEN, VAL?
$1,000,000
WINNER !!!!!!!
CONGRATULATIONS! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR ONE MILLION DOLLARS?
GOSH! I REALLY DON'T KNOW!
I JUST WISH I HAD SOMEONE SPECIAL TO SHARE IT WITH!
BROOM HILDA, I PRESUME?
WANNA TRY YOUR LUCK NOW, JOHNNY?
NOT GONNA HAPPEN, VAL.
YOU CAN BET ON THAT.